



countdown

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Atlantis' main engines, external tank focus of processing



◆ Shuttle Update:

Technicians at Kennedy Space Center began configuring the three main engines on space shuttle Atlantis

Monday. Work continues to ready the spacecraft for its servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope.

Workers replaced a valve on Atlantis' external tank after small dings were found on the sealing surface of the quick disconnect system that handles liquid-hydrogen fuel for the shuttle's three main engines. The tank will be attached to the twin solid rocket boosters Aug. 3.

At Launch Pad 39A, workers are replacing another section of fire-resistant bricks in the flame trench with a steel grid protected by a spray-on concrete material called Fondue Fyre. The concrete will replace about 3,500 bricks that blasted out of the trench during the May 31 launch of space shuttle Discovery.

◆ LRO/LCROSS Update:

NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO, and the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite, or LCROSS, were scheduled to travel to the moon by the end of 2008. Because of high demand for Atlas V launches for the next 12 months, NASA has agreed to exchange launch dates with another mission. The new LRO launch window will now open

in late February 2009 and continue through the end of March.

LRO will develop a highly detailed, topographic map of the lunar surface to help prepare the way for humans to return in the next decade. LCROSS is designed to detect water ice in a permanently shadowed crater at one of the lunar poles.

■ **7th Annual Indoor Triathlon** — The KSC Fitness Centers will present their 7th annual indoor triathlon Aug. 4 through Aug. 29. The event is open to everyone, not just fitness fanatics. Two separate series include numerous categories of participation.

The Novice Series allows you to complete each event for either the sprint or distance triathlon on a separate day and add all three of your best times together at the end.

The Masters Series provides a non-stop competition in either the sprint or distance triathlon from event to event. Even rest time counts!

The Sprint Event is a 5 mile bike, 1,000 meter row and 2 mile walk/run event.

The Distance Event is a 10 mile bike, 2,000 meter row and 3.1 mile walk/run event.

Within each series, you may compete in either the individual sprint or distance triathlon or with a team.

You may participate at any intensity level and as many times as you desire. Sign up sheets will be avail-

LRO/LCROSS launch moves to February 2009

able at both the O&C and OSB Fitness Centers.

Contact Alycen LaBarca at 867-7829 or alycen.m.labarca@nasa.gov with any questions.

■ **Energizing Our Emerging Leaders** — Are you interested in learning more about becoming a leader at NASA? Learn more about NASA's vision for emerging leaders July 31 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the KSC Training Auditorium. You will have the opportunity to hear from an exciting panel of guest speakers, as well as the chance to learn more about leadership development programs and courses (First, LTI, the Brevard Leadership Program, etc.).

Afterward, you also will have the opportunity to network socially with other emerging leaders of the Young Professionals of Brevard (ypB) at Sparky's in Titusville. This event is open to everyone, but there is a \$10 fee for non-members of ypB.

Contact Clay Yonce at 867-6828 or Clayton.A.Yonce@nasa.gov for additional information.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.